

What: Policy level review of the short term and long term research strategy for the identification and prevention of E. coli contamination in spinach and other leafy green vegetables. The discussion will focus on the strategic direction that research should take and explore the availability of resources from federal, state, and industry sources. The meeting is not intended to offer a comprehensive review of existing science on the topic nor develop a detailed research plan. Participation is by invitation only and closed to the news media.

When: Friday, October 27, 2006. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Agricultural Center Conference Room
Office of the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner
1432 Abbot Street, Salinas CA 93901

Press Availability: 2:30 p.m. in the atrium outside the Agricultural Center Conference Room at the Commissioner's Office.

Participants (approx. 75):

Federal - U.S. Representative Sam Farr, Joe Spence, Deputy Administrator, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Mark Roh, Acting Deputy Administrator, Food & Drug Administration

State - A.G. Kawamura, Secretary CA Department of Food & Agriculture, Dr. Jeff Farrar, Chief Food and Drug Branch, CA Department of Homeland Security, Western Institute of Food Safety, UC Davis

Local - Regional Ag Commissioners

Industry - Various produce organizations including the Grower Shipper Association, Western Growers Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Produce Marketing Association, United Fresh Produce, and representatives from various individual producers, shippers and processors.